

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Upon entry of this reply, claims 1-22 will remain pending. Claims 1 and 21 are independent claims. Claims 1, 19 and 20 stand withdrawn from consideration, and claims 2-18, 21 and 22 are under consideration,

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

### **Discussion of Telephone Interview**

Applicants express appreciation for the courtesies extended by Examiner Chevalier during a November 27, 2007 telephone interview Applicants' representative Arnold Turk.

During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed with the Examiner the rejection set forth in the Office Action mailed October 11, 2007 as well as Applicants' response to a similar rejection, which response was filed June 8, 2006. In particular, the Examiner was referred to the arguments pertaining to the rejection based upon the same documents as in the present Office Action, and particularly Yeager et al. (hereinafter Yeager"), U.S. Patent No. 6,352,782. The Examiner indicated that the structure recited by Applicants and the structure disclosed in Yeager had once again been reviewed, and that the structures appeared to be different. The Examiner indicated that the rejection should be withdrawn subject to further search and consideration.

The Examiner indicated that because a rejection has been mailed, Applicants should file a response repeating the arguments of record stating that the Examiner indicated at the interview that the same structures did not appear to be present and that the Examiner indicated it would not appear to be obvious to modify the documents utilized in the rejection to arrive at Applicants' recited subject matter.

### **Claim Of Priority**

Applicants have repeatedly requested that the Examiner acknowledge Applicants' claim of foreign priority as well as receipt of the certified copies of Japanese Application Nos. 2003-019475 and 2003-136496 concurrently filed with the application.

**Despite the repeated requests, the claim of foreign priority and receipt of the certified copies has not been acknowledged. Therefore, Applicants once again request that the Examiner acknowledge the claim of foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy in the next communication from the Patent and Trademark Office.**

### **Restriction Requirement**

Applicants once again note that non-elected claims 1, 19 and 20 are being permitted to remain pending subject to possible rejoinder.

### **Withdrawal Of 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph, Rejection**

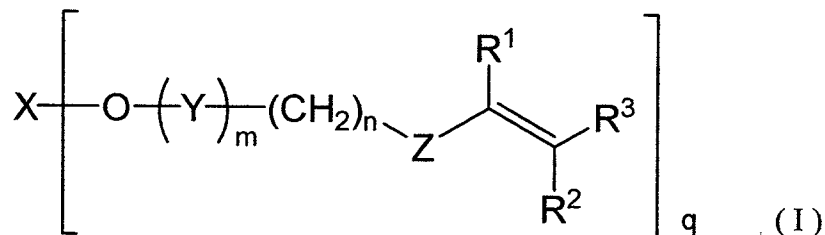
Applicants express appreciation for the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 112, first rejection of claims 2-18, 21 and 22.

### **Art Based Rejection**

Claims 2-18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchida et al. (hereinafter "Tsuchida"), U.S. Patent No. 6,835,241, in view of Yeager et al. (hereinafter "Yeager"), U.S. Patent No. 6,352,782.

In response, Applicants once again note that independent claim 21 is directed to a laminated sheet prepared by piling a prepreg and copper foil(s) one over the other under heat-pressing,

wherein the prepreg is prepared by impregnating a poly(phenylene ether) resin composition into a substrate and semi-curing a resulting impregnated substrate, wherein the poly(phenylene ether) resin composition comprises a poly(phenylene ether) and a crosslinking curing agent, wherein the polyphenylene ether is represented by the following formula (I), and the number averaged molecular weight thereof is in a range of 1,000 to 7,000



wherein, X is an aryl group; (Y)<sub>m</sub> is a polyphenylene ether moiety; m is an integer of 1 to 100; Z is a para- or meta-phenylene group, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; and when Z is a oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, n is an integer of 1 to 6; when Z is a para- or meta-phenylene group, n is 1; R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>3</sup> each independently is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group or alkynyl group; and q is an integer of 1 to 4.

According to the present invention, Applicants again note that it was found that the PPE (polyphenylene ether) of which a terminal hydroxyl group is modified with a specific group as defined in Claim 21 can raise efficiency of the reaction between PPE and a crosslinking curing agent, and that even when a relatively low molecular weight PPE is used for the purpose of increasing the fluidity in a molten state, it is possible to prepare a PPE resin composition which is excellent in dielectric characteristics and has a higher glass transition temperature, without the sacrifice of PPE's inherent characteristics. Accordingly, using the PPE resin composition of the present invention, a prepreg and laminated sheet having an excellent quality can be produced. See for, example page 5, lines 12-27 of Applicants' specification.

The rejection acknowledges that Tsuchida fails to disclose Applicants' claimed polyphenylene ether composition, but contends that Yeager discloses such a composition. Moreover, the rejection contends that one having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to combine the disclosures of Tsuchida and Yeager. However, whether or not it would have been obvious to combine the disclosure of Tsuchida and Yeager, the presently claimed subject matter would not be present.

In particular, it is noted that Yeager does not disclose the PPE recited in Applicants' claim 21. The terminal groups of the PPE disclosed in Yeager are different from those recited in claim 21. For example, upon review of Yeager, it is seen that Yeager discloses PPE having a terminal group consisting of one selected from the group of carbonyl( $C=O$ ), thioketone ( $C=S$ ) and methylene ( $CH_2$ ) group as "Z". Such groups are different from the groups recited in Applicants' claim 21. Yeager also discloses other capping agents for substituting a terminal group of the PPE in the specification (column 7, line 65 to column 8, line 16). However, none of the terminal groups is same as the one of the present invention. Further, those listed other capping agents, except for a capping agent providing carbonyl group( $C=O$ ) as "Z", are neither exemplified in the EXAMPLE of Yeager nor particularly mentioned for their effects.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to the PPE having specific terminal groups, by which it is possible to prepare a PPE resin composition which is excellent in dielectric characteristics and has a higher glass transition temperature, without sacrificing PPE's inherent characteristics even when a relatively low molecular weight PPE is used for the purpose of increasing the fluidity in a molten state.

Still further the dependent claims further patentably define the subject matter of claim 21, and are allowable for the reasons that claim 21 is allowable as well as for the additional features recited in the dependent claims.

As discussed above, during the above-noted interview, the Examiner indicated that the rejection should be withdrawn upon presentation of Applicants' previously submitted arguments subject to further search and consideration. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of record and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

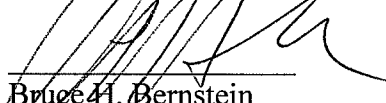
In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of record, and allow each of the pending claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that an early indication of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

December 7, 2007  
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